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<p>Statement</p>	<p>WESTS is committed to ensuring the safety of all students including in emergency situations. Annual school bus safety programs have been developed to ensure that students are aware of the actions to be taken in emergency situations as well as ensuring ongoing safety on the bus.</p> <p>These programs are delivered by the School Bus Operators in conjunction with WESTS as well as community service providers and contracted organizations. The programs may include First Ride program for new bus riders, Bus Patrol Training, Bus Evacuation training, School Bus Rider Safety Training and any other safety training programs as deemed beneficial by the General Manager or School Boards.</p>
<p>Programs</p>	<p>First Ride Program A first ride program that familiarizes students new to busing will be provided each year. The program will include allowing children to go on a trial bus ride as well as informing parents of the rules and their responsibilities with respect to their children’s busing. Operators are required to provide WESTS with the information regarding the number of attendees, by school.</p> <p>Bus Patrol Program The bus patrol program will be provided as per SS-08 Bus Patrol Program, to students that have been identified as safety patrols.</p> <p>Bus Evacuation Program The bus operators will conduct the bus evacuation program during National School Bus Safety Week at each elementary school. The purpose of the program is to ensure that students are prepared in cases of emergency. All students from JK to Grade 8, including students with special needs, are involved in the program. The bus patrols assist with actual bus evacuation drills and there is an instructional video that accompanies the training.</p>



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	<p>The bus operators forward a list of all schools that have had the training and the training dates to WESTS for tracking purposes.</p> <p>School Bus Rider Safety Training The School Bus Rider Safety Training Program is funded by the Ministry of Education and provided through a Purchase of Service Agreement with a Safety Program Provider. The program has two components one for JK to Grade 3 and one for Grade 4 to Grade 8. The program is designed to reinforce bus safety rules for students.</p> <p>Other Programs Should additional programs become available that will assist in improving the safety and bus riding experience, WESTS will contact the schools to request that the training take place.</p>
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Referenced policies: SS-08 Bus Patrol Program